

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, applicants have amended the specification, amended claims 1-3, 5-10, and 13-17. Claims 1-19 remain pending for reconsideration.

The specification has been amended to correct an editorial oversight. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph because of various informalities. Applicants have voluntarily extensively revised the claims to address various editorial oversights, including the various antecedent basis issues noted by the Examiner. Applicants submit that the present claims are in proper form under § 112, 2nd paragraph.

Claims 1-4, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Arbogast (U.S. Patent No. 6,305,966). Claims 5, 6, and 9-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arbogast in view of Yin (U.S. Patent No. 5,889,656). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

By way of background, the present invention is directed to a lever mechanism which in most applications will reduce the amount of user force required to insert a card in a slot. In contrast to the present invention, both of the cited references are directed only to card retention mechanisms. Accordingly, neither reference individually can anticipate the present invention and no combination of the references renders the present invention obvious.

In particular, applicants have voluntarily presented an essentially new claim 1, for reasons of convenience not related to patentability, which clarifies that the lever mechanism includes an engaging surface adapted to apply a lever force on the card during insertion of the card in the slot of the connector. Neither of the cited references teach or suggest this claim feature.

In fact, neither of the cited references discloses or even mentions a lever. The relied upon elements of the references are simply arms which function as retention mechanisms. Nowhere does Arbogast teach or suggest that the resilient upright member 116 may function as a lever. Similarly, Yin does not teach or suggest that the various retaining arms (e.g. arms 18, 28, 38, 48) may function as a lever. Moreover, neither reference discloses or suggests any structure wherein

the various members / arms could be used to apply a lever force to the card during insertion of the card in the slot.

Because neither Arbogast nor Yin discloses a lever mechanism including an engaging surface adapted to apply a lever force on the card during insertion of the card in the slot of the connector, claim 1 is not anticipated by Arbogast and is patentable over Arbogast in view of Yin. Claims 2-10 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are likewise patentable.

With respect to claim 11, the claim recites, among other things, actuating the lever mechanism. The office action asserts that the assembly methods disclosed in Arbogast / Yin inherently teach or suggest the recited claim elements. However, this is incorrect. First, as discussed above, neither of the references discloses any type of lever function, so the various members / arms of Arbogast / Yin cannot fairly be said to teach or suggest the recited lever mechanism. Moreover, the movements of the various members / arm disclosed in the cited references do not perform lever functions (e.g. do not apply leverage to the card), so neither reference discloses the recited element of actuating the lever mechanism.

Because neither Arbogast nor Yin teaches or suggests a lever mechanism or actuating a lever mechanism, claim 11 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 12-13 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 11 and are likewise patentable.

Claim 12 is separately patentable for at least the following reasons. Claim 12 recites that actuating the lever mechanism includes moving the card into the slot by moving a contact surface of the lever mechanism from a first position to a second position. Neither reference teaches or suggests this feature.

As noted above, both references simply disclose retention mechanisms. Neither reference discloses anything whatsoever in connection with a lever mechanism that is operable to move a card into a slot by moving the lever.

Claim 13 is separately patentable for at least the following reasons. Claim 13 recites removing the card from the slot by moving the lever mechanism from the second position to the first position.

As noted above, both references simply disclose retention mechanisms. Neither reference discloses anything whatsoever in connection with a lever mechanism that is operable to remove a card from a slot by moving the lever.

Claim 14 is amended voluntarily and editorially for reasons not related to patentability. Claim 14 recites numerous elements not taught or suggested by the cited references. For example, among other things, claim 14 recites a lever mechanism including an ejector. Neither of the cited references teaches or suggests these claim features.

As noted above, the cited references fail to teach or suggest any type of lever function, and accordingly do not teach or suggest a lever mechanism. Moreover, the cited references are absolutely devoid of any teaching in connection with an ejector. In contrast to the present invention as recited in claim 14, the cited reference require first disabling the disclosed retention mechanisms and then manual removal of the card (notably without the assistance of any ejector). The various catches (e.g. catch 114) cited in the office action are not ejectors.

Because neither Arbogast nor Yin discloses an assembly including a lever mechanism and an ejector, claim 14 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 15-19 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 14 and are likewise patentable.


In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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